

FRS NEWSLETTER

Number 15- September 1997

Dear FRS-Holland Friend!

Response on the first restyled FRS Newsletter was very encouraging, thanks to all of you who sent us an Email or a letter positively commenting on the contents of issue 14. General tendency of the readers' response was (is) that the Newsletter contained far more info than they expected. Many of you agree the FRSN is well worth the money. A good basis to continue.

FRS NEWSCORNER

FRS-HOLLAND ACTIVITIES

Something which was not included in June was the fact that FRS-Holland was received in New Zealand Sun morning June 22nd at approx. 04.45 UTC!! That morning we carried out a 2 hour broadcast between 03.00-05.00 UTC. It was the first time in our history we reached New Zealand and you can imagine the big smile on Bobby Speed's face when he heard the news... But that's not all. Sun morning July 13th we did a second attempt, once again between 03.00-05.00 UTC. Frequency was (similar to June 22nd) 6275 and at 04.45 UTC FRSH was heard in....New Zealand! Both times reception was also reported at the eastcoast of the USA. After having successfully been received in New Zealand, FRSH concentrated on its European audience in August. Sun August 10th saw a test broadcast on 6246 between 08.52-10.00 UTC. Purpose was to test the rig but also to inform listeners about upcoming August transmissions. Signal-strength was good, so was the modulation. Unfortunately conditions were not stable causing long skip making reception in some areas poor or non-existing. But on the other hand: a very strong signal was received in many areas proving the tx was doing very well. Sunday August 16th FRS-Holland did a short nighttime broadcast, it was a final test to make sure all was working ok for the 3rd Sunday broadcast the next day. We went on the air on 6290 at 22.00 UTC., only seconds after World Music Radio was signing off and continued till 23.15 UTC. Reaction of WMR's SH Nielsen: "Great idea to switch on your tx immediately after the s/ff of WMR." Exceptionally strong reception was reported from the mid Wales area. The next day, August 17th FRSH started at approx. 07.30 UTC with non-stop 60s music interspersed with 60s offshore jingles. Frequency was 6245, the same channel we used in October/December 1996. Trms started at 07.52 UTC sharp. During the first hour (Peter Verbruggen's FRS Magazine) skip was very, very long rapidly getting shorter after 09.00 UTC. In the end there were hardly any dead zones, reception in most areas was (very) good judging the reports we received from numerous European countries. Close down would be at 12.00 UTC but it was decided to repeat Peter V.'s FRS Magazine show because of the long skip earlier that day. So FRSH continued till 13.00 UTC. August 30th/31st FRSH was to be heard on 3910 to celebrate the 17th birthday (informally). Pxs went out between 22.00-00.00 UTC August 30th or if you like: 00.00-02.00 CEST August 31st. Signal-strength on 3910 was good, although there was quite some noise on the band.. The proposed 48 mb broadcast was cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control. We hoped to repeat the shows on 48 metres 6290 in the night of Sat Sept. 6th to Sunday September 7th. A very serious reason prevented this.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES/17th BIRTHDAY

For the upcoming months a few broadcasts are planned. Currently we focus all our attention on Sunday October 19th when we hope to celebrate 17 years of SW broadcasting on 48 & 51 metres (most likely 5805 & 6245). On 48 metres official programming could already commence as early as 08.52 CET lasting till 13.00 CET. On 5805 we'll be on for 24 hours from Sat evening to the early Sun evening! So there will be enough chances to hear the entire programming. At this moment it's too early to give details about the pxs, expect programmes well worth to listen to...**Important: your involvement is highly appreciated!!** You can send us a taped message, a written message or an Email which will be read out/played during the broadcast. In order to allow us to prepare everything, we **MUST** have your contribution as soon as possible. Deadline: **Wed October 1st**. Your involvement is highly appreciated and is a vital part of the celebration party.

So....we count on you!!! As far as the content of your birthday greeting is concerned: we leave it up to you... Keep this in mind: **do it "just a bit different" !!**

FRS-Holland hopes to air a normal 3rd Sunday broadcast November 16th and a X-Mas show December 21st. **Remember: any FRSH Sunday means superb rock music, the latest (and most) free radio information, fast-moving radio and above all entertainment. So don't miss it!!**

Qsl's/stickers etc. will only be sent to people who drop us a line via POBox 2727 in Herten. However, Emails are of course also highly appreciated! Email addresses are as follows: > peter.verbruggen@tip.nl < or > frsh@pi.net <. The latter will be replaced by > frsh@wxs.nl <, however we must point out that > frsh@pi.net < will still be valid for (almost) another year! Much info about FRS-Holland is to be read on our website (regularly being updated): ><http://home.pi.net/~freak55/home.htm><. People who are stored in our SW addressbox will be kept up-to-date by means of Emails. Send an Email if you'd like your name to be added.

THE SW FREE RADIO SCENE

CONDITIONS/GENERAL

In this edition we cover the news of the period June 22nd- Sept. 7th 1997 emphasizing on the developments in the past few weeks! Some of the newsitems in this column aren't to be read in any other mag, so the FRS Newsletter is a reliable/ interesting source for all SW free radio enthusiasts...Thanks to everybody for supplying us with news, in particular Mark Brown/SRS in Sweden. **Conditions** have been very poor lately on 48 metres and were mostly ruled by long skip. That means: signals being not heard at all or fading in and out. At this moment, early September, it looks like things are improving on 48 metres. Better conditions were dominating the 76 MB (although towards the autumn propagation is getting worse) being overcrowded during this summer period. Also during normal weekdays, lots of primarily Dutch stations are to be heard in the range 3900-3950. Checking the number of different stations which were active during an ordinary week in June, makes one wonder where all the stations come from. Just to let you know here's an alphabetical list. The stations in *italics* are Dutch stations clearly indicating that when it comes to figures, the Netherlands is the unrivalled champion. No doubt that's a worrying development. Since so many Dutch medium wave pirates switched to 76 metres, the Dutch authorities will show extra interest and it wouldn't be too much of a surprise in case they would undertake some action against the 3.9 MHz pirates. The OP of Radio Korak Int. informed us that he has suspended all activities for the time being because of increased RCD activity.

Radio Apollo, Radio Asterix, Radio Benelux, R.Black Power, Radio Blue Star, R.Boomerang, R.Borderhunter, Radio Candyman, R.City, Crazy Wave R., Radio Daiwa, R.Delta Ruurlo, Radio East Coast Holland Radio Grensjager, radio Grimson, R.Jimmy, R.Jokebox, International Music R., Radio King Kong, R. Korak, R.Mariquita, R. Metoor, Radio Mickey Mouse, R.Nordsee, R.Oscar, R.Pacman, R.Pandora, R. Red King, R.Select, Spaceman, Radio Shadowman, Subterranean Sounds, R.Dr.Tim, Transatlantic R., Radio Turbo, Voice of the Netherlands, Vrije Vogel, R.Without Borders Int. Mind you: the above listing contains the names of several new 76 mb stations. We do not claim that list to be complete! The address of *Radio Apollo* is P.O.Box13, 9430 AD Westerbork, the Netherlands. *Radio Vrije Vogel* can be contacted c/o Patrick Willfor, Langviksgatan, 24B13, 65100 Vaasa, Finland.

☐ Via the Internet we were informed that **RADIO 101** from Germany has resumed SW trms from Ireland on 27035 kHz using a beam antenna. Radio 101's signal is FM modulated and trms are irregular depending on favourable 11 mb conditions. Presenter is Chris who's reading out letters and playing music requests. Correct reports will be verified with a station QSLs and a new sticker. There's no intention to return to 41 metres as reception on 11 metres is more stable at present time. Address is Radio101, P.O.Box 2, B-4851 Gemmenich, Belgium.

☐ The latest schedule from **RADIO 510 INT.** reads as follows:



Kiwi Radio	Sept. 7th	Radio Nathalie	Sept. 14th
Radio 510 Int.	Sept. 21st	R. Wonderful	Sept. 28th
Radio 510 Int.	Oct. 5th	Radio Marabu	Oct. 12th
Radio Sparks	Oct. 19th		

Programmes are every Sunday starting at 19.00 UTC on 3985kHz for one hour. For more info contact Radio 510 via Email: > scarlett@swissonline.ch <. Visit their web page at: > <http://www.radio510.org> <.

☐ Interesting was **RADIO ASTERIX's** test on 4018 and 4100 kHz Friday August 1st during the late evening. On both frequencies very strong signals were received. The station is also Id-ing as the "Voice of Andorra". By the way: radio Grimson was heard in much weaker quality on 4099 that same evening.

☐ **RADIO ATLANTIS** from the UK (?) carried out tests on 3941 & 3946 Sat July 26th. Signal-strength was excellent. A mix of popoldies was played and the following address was frequently mentioned: Box 5 in 8800 AA Raalte in the Netherlands.

☐ German **RADIO BENELUX** was heard on its old 7480 kHz outlet Sun July 27th. As conditions were ruled by long skip propagation, BNL wasn't heard at all in wide areas. Tuesday September 2nd 20.30-22.20 UTC a kind of special broadcast was aired on 3924. This was a reaction of a trm of a fake Level 48 station (poking fun with the genuine Level 48) broadcasting August 31st on 48 metres. On the fake station Jens Martin's (BNL) voice was heard as well as jingles. Jens Martin was very angry and offered a reward for giving the identity of the fake station. Address is (1).

☐ **RADIO BRISTOL** is a well-known name for mainly Finnish DXers. The station returned on SW 6215 August 24th. Monthly trms are planned but at this moment there's no postal address available. Modulation and signal-strength were very good in Sweden.

☐ June 22nd saw **BRITAIN RADIO INT.** celebrating its 17th birthday. BRI was to be heard on 6239 with a fair signal. Conditions that day were not splendid. Congrats to Roger Davis and staff! BRI address is (4).

☐ **RADIO CENTURION** has a new address: c/o Barones, POBox 73, 7260 AB Neede in the Netherlands. The station uses to do broadcasts with only 10 watt in SSB/LSB-mode!

☐ **CONTEST:** A.I.R. and the editors of Radiorama and Pirate News, on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the first issue of Pirate News, the monthly page of Radiorama dealing with Pirate stations, have decided to devote a weekend to this particular type of DXing, from 1600 UTC of October 31st to 2400 UTC of November 2nd 1997. The participation is open to all European DXers, even if not AIR members. For more info contact

☐ **CRAZY WAVE RADIO** has closed down Sunday Augustus 31st. A fine signal was heard on 6260. Pxs were hosted by Chris Ise & Andy Walker. In a recently sent Email station-OP Chris Ise explained he's moving to Southern Europe for a quite long time. CWR might appear again on the SW bands in a new way around or after the autumn 1998. The CWR-homepage moves to:

<http://www.mannelli.com/cwr>. CWR's email add will be closing down in the course of September! Good luck Chris!

☐ **DIRE WAVES RADIO** is an Italian pirate station being aired via the tx of R.Europe. DWR made its debut back in December, during the memorial Contest M.Ravigneaux. That broadcast produced 12 reports from all over Europe. The stations aims to put out future broadcasts with own broadcast facilities. Address is similar to that of Radio Europe Int.

☐ **EUROPEAN MUSIC RADIO** is still awaiting a good opportunity to put out its 20th birthday programming. Barry Stephens is not disappointed about the non-activity in the months of June, July & August. Conditions have been unstable and poor. Barry prefers to go on air in the September/October period. The 4 hour 20th birthday shows will be aired on 48 metres via a relay. EMR will be returning on 41 metres with its very own 100W tx also in the September/October period. A complete new jingle-package is produced and a professional info-package containing QSL, sticker and info-booklet can be contained by sending a correct rec. report and two IRCs/2 US dollars to: EMR, P.O.Box 2727, 6049 ZG Herten.

☐ **RADIO FOXFIRE** broadcasting on 76 metres uses the following address: P.O.Box 13, NL-9430 AA Westernburg, the Netherlands.

☐ **RADIO FREE LONDON** continued with regular 51 meb trms on 5805kHz until Sun August 31st. Since early July the station was back on a 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month schedule. The station announced to close down for the time being awaiting better propagation. Another reason is (quoting the station) "we are now gaining ground with our AM service to London and we want to try and build it up some more....". It is expected RFL will be returning in November. Scottish radio station Weekend Music Radio is supposed to do the 2nd & 4th Sunday on 51 metres. In the mean time RFL tested a new tx on 5780. July 19th RFL was all night on 5780 while at the same moment the regular 5805 service was running. Also August 3rd saw RFL testing on 5780. Friday August 15th and Sat August 16th RFL was broadcasting to London on 1125kHz (via Radio Argus) with non-stop 'Good Time Oldies' and a big 'Anorak Special' looking back at the British Offshore stations of the 60s. This programme was also aired on 3945 in the night of Saturday August 16th and on their regular channel of 5805kHz 51m/b throughout Sunday August 17th. The full Radio Free London web site hopefully will be up and running by now at <http://193.63.162.100/gh/sw/RFL.html>. Email address is > RFL@srs.pp.se < You can also write to: Box 99, 1st Floor Suite, 253 Selhurst Rd, London SE25 6XT in the UK.

☐ **RADIO FREE WILLY** from Germany bought a new 30 W tx constructed by LWR's Bill Lewis. Tests should have begun early this Summer. One of the upcoming QSLs will show a photo of the rig. Address is (1).

☐ **RADIO HANDSHAKE** is a new Italian FR station using a 20W rig on 76 metres. Address is c/o GAMT, CP 3, Succ. 10, 31100 Treviso in Italy.

☐ INTERNET SITES:

Info & pictures of Italian **Radio Europe** (7306) can be found at: <http://www.alpcom.it/hamradio/freewaves/europe.htm>

The **Italian Broadcasting Corporation** uses:

> <http://www.mannelli.com/ibc> Email: IBC@mannelli.com < German **Radio 101** informed us about their new website at > <http://194.97.88.51/radio101> <.

Our Belgian friend Herman Boel informed us that his "The World on Radio" website can be found via > <http://www.club.innet.be/~ind1570> <. It is a frequency list of all radio countries and stations that can be heard on shortwave in Flanders. Very interesting indeed!

☐ **RADIO JEMIMA** have changed name & address. Their new name is **Radio RJK** using this address: P.O.Box 16002, Tamatea, Napier, New Zealand. As you probably will know, the station is now using the Kiwi transmitting facilities. Kiwi is now carrying out legal FM trms in New Zealand.

☐ **RADIO LAGUNA** from Germany has quit for the time being. The station considers a return with a more powerful tx but that's not certain at the moment. Address is (1).

☐ **RADIO MARABU** will be on the air again with two another long time 24 hours transmissions at the 2nd weekend at September from Saturday the 13th starting at 18.00 hours UTC until Sunday the 14th at 18.00 hours UTC and at the 3rd weekend from Friday the 19th starting at 18.00 hours UTC until Saturday the 20th at 18.00 hours UTC. Frequency is 6275. During the 4th hour Geman Euro Radio will be relayed.

The programmes will be repeated on a four hour time slot.

Radio Marabu - P.O. Box 1166 - 49187 Belm - Germany

E-mail: > RadioMarabu@t-online.de <

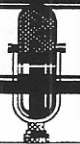
ULR: > <http://www.mediaDD.de/radiomarabu/> <.

☐ Sad news from Italy: we were informed that **RADIO MARIQUITA** was raided today 2nd September from the Italian Escopost, the transmitter was confiscated. (from Luigi Basso-GAMT).

☐ **MIDLANDS MUSIC RADIO** unexpectedly returned on 48 metres Sun June 29th. Frequency was 6208 kHz. A UK phonenummer was mentioned in the show: 0973-727776. However, we are uncertain about the station's postal address. It could be possibly 78 Victoria Street, Silverdale, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 6PP, UK

☐ For those who logged a **RADIO NOVA** on 6280 on Sun August 10th: most likely it was an old programme tape from Nova satellite. But who was behind this "relay"??

☐ Remember French station **ONDA CALIENTE**? The OP has decided to cease all its activities, due to lack of time and reduced interest in pirate radio activity. The website is cancelled too.



▣ **OZONE RADIO** broadcasting from Dublin, Ireland was regularly heard on 51 metres. Sun June 29th a weak signal was picked up on 5800 kHz. Also July 20th & August 10th Ozone was active on 5800, unfortunately once again with poorish reception. In the mean time it seems the station has settled down on 5830. Address is 55D Chester Rd, London N15 5DF in the UK. Email: 106574.1725@Compuserve.com. ▣ August 17th at 10.28 UTC German **RADIO PERFECT** (1) lost its modulator which caught fire. Add is (1).

▣ Dutch powerhouse **RADIO SPACEMAN** is considering the idea testing in the frequency range between 4000 and 4100 kHz. Whether other stations will follow, depends on the success on that part of the SW spectrum. Fact is that this range has never been used by any Euro-pirate although is quite close to 76 metres. Frequencies above 4 MHz might give better chances to reach the US as lots of US hams are broadcasting in the 3900-3950 range.

▣ Scandinavian **RADIO STARSHINE** will return on 76 metres after this Summer. Add is (1).

▣ In the previous edition we reported about **SUPERCLAN RADIO** starting 24 hour broadcasts on 6275. The station actually got on the air but power was less than 1 watt. A new tx has been constructed and should be operational mid September. Power's approx. 15W and the tx has been installed on a new site with a mains power facility. Address is Box 343, 6900 AH Zevenaar in the Netherlands.

▣ So now and then confusion can arise about stations using similar names. We all know German oldest SW station **RADIO TITANIC INT.** (1 & 10). This station has produced an excellent 16 page A5 history booklet. Sat August 30th saw a Dutch station testing on 6250 using the name **STATION TITANIC**. No address available as yet.

▣ **RADIO TORENVALK** was heard on a rather "weird" frequency, namely 9241, Sun August 31st. A fair signal was picked up in Scandinavia. Add is Box 94, 7038 ZH Zeddam.

▣ **TRANSATLANTIC RECEPTION**

In the past months several US stations being have been received in Europe. June 15th WREC (Radio Free East Coast), German Radio Titanic via a US relay and Radio Metallica World Wide were heard around 6955 USB. ! That same weekend Euro pirate Radio Free London was heard on the US East Coast on 5805 kHz. ! July 26th/27th WREC, Radio Lounge Lizard Radio, Radio Metallica & Radio Free Euphoria were all heard on 6955U. August 2nd saw WMPR and Radio Tornado World Wide (fake name for Metallica!) on 6955U and one day later Radio Xanax reached the European continent.

June 29th was the final broadcasting day for famous Kiwi Radio. RTI had the honour to be the final station being relayed via this New Zealand station. That px went out from about 07.15 UTC on 7475 kHz. The station has a new Email address: > kiwiradio@write.com <.

Laser Hot Hits and FRS-Holland were both received in New Zealand during the early morning of Sun July 13th (at approx. 04.30 UTC). LHH was on 6220, FRSH on 6275. FRSH was also heard in New Zealand June 22nd, once again on 6275.

August 2nd: Good conditions for reception of US PIRATES again. The Radio Tornado Worldwide broadcast logged last Saturday night was in fact a fake version of Radio Metallica. This stations claims to be broadcasting with no less than 10 kW!!

▣ **SOUTHERN MUSIC RADIO** can be heard via WRMI Oct. 11th 18.00-19.00 UTC and December 13th 19.00-20.00 UTC. Address if SMR is Box 1, Belfast, NY 14711, USA. The OP reports that low powered FM trms are being commenced in September. Freq is 88.8 Mhz and the location is on a hill which is very favourable. SMR is offering relay possibilities (FM stereo), the first station to be heard via SMR on FM is USA station WGBR. For relays you may contact SMR via the Kiwi Radio address (see Voice of the Corn People).

▣ **TRANSATLANTIC RADIO** tested a new Inverted V aerial on the 17th of August. Freq was 6260 and signal-strength was fair. Address is Box 4427, 3006 AK Rotterdam.

▣ **UNION RADIO** from Hoozeveen was heard on several 51 mb frequencies in the past weeks. Sun August 10th saw the station on 5800. August 31st Union was heard on 5796, 5814, 5817 & 5836. Signal-strength seemed ok but the mod quality was poor. Add is Box 357, 7900 AJ Hoozeveen.

▣ The **VOICE OF THE CORN PEOPLE** seems to be a new Australian pirate. Trms emanate from the South Pacific and Sat

August 2nd the station tested on 11450 kHz from 04.00-04.30UTC. Output power is unknown. During the test, a CD of Latin American music, was played. The signal was running into a 25m vertical aerial. Australian pirate: c/o Kiwi Radio, P O Box 3103, Onekawa, Napier, New Zealand. Alternate Frequencies are 11480 and 11500kHz. By the way: another Australian pirate, **Radio G'Day** could be returning this year.

▣ **WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO** can now also be heard on 5805 kHz. July 6th saw WMR's first pxs on this new frequency. WMR can be heard every 2nd & 4th Sun starting trms already on Sat evening similar to RFL. Add= RFL's one!

▣ **RADIO WITHOUT BORDERS INT.** from Russia was heard with a fair signal on 3933 Sun June 29th. Well done!

▣ As you might know **WREKIN RADIO INT.** restarted broadcasting on SW June 22nd. They have decided that for a trial period shows will be aired on 12256 kHz short wave on a Friday and Saturday night after 21:00 UTC. The program content is the same as it has always been on WRI being a mix of music from 1955 to the present decade. Tests will continue until further notice. After a three week silence, WRI resumed broadcasting Friday August 1st into Sat August 2nd 21.00 to 04.00 UTC on 12256 kHz. Address is (10), Email address is > wrinternational@compuserve.com home <.

▣ **RADIO MR. X** uses the following address: P.O.Box 2289, NL-5202 CG Den Bosch. Do **not** write to Box 101 in Beekbergen!

▣ The **XENON TRANSMITTING COMPANY** tested on 5824 Sun July 6th & 13th. A nice signal was heard on the latter date. The fact that the station seems to stay on 5.8 Mhz can be deduced from the many trms which followed in August. For instance August 17th XTC was on 5824. Add is (9)??

▣ British **RADIO ZODIAC** tested towards the USA on September 7th from 00.15 UTC until about 06.00 UTC on 6400 kHz. The station which was heard under the name Eurorock on 6275 August 17th was in fact Radio Zodiac. Add is (1).

SOUNDS FROM OFFSHORE

During this 1997 Summer much attention was going out to the 30th anniversary of the infamous British Marine Offences Act. It was midnight August 14th 1967 when the bill came into force. As a result many British offshore stations, operating from ships in the Northsea or from forts in the Thames Estuary, closed down. Radio Caroline North and South merged and went on as Caroline Int. with headoffices in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The offshore stations had unmistakably great influence on the British music industry. Many singers and groups within the music scene took advantage of the fact their records got enormous air-play on the pop pirates. Artists like Tom Jones, Edwin Starr, Ike & Tina Turner and groups such as the Small Faces, the Beach Boys, the Tremeloes, The Kinks and The Who owe much of their success to the likes of for instance Radio London and Caroline. Ofcourse a number of radio stations paid attention to the 30th birthday August 14th. Radio Netherlands World Service broadcasted a special edition of Media Network and for this occasion satellite broadcaster Country Music Radio swapped nights and moved its popular MediaZoo from Wednesday to Thursday evening. Also several British stations commemorated the end of most British free radio stations on the Northsea 30 years ago.

Two of Britain's best-known 60s stations- **Radio London & Radio Caroline**- returned to the airwaves via so-called Restricted Service Licenses being issued by the Radio Authority. In the mean time both have closed down.

Big L- Radio London

The temporary return of Big L Radio London was the main idea of Ray Anderson- long-time Big L fan and managing-director of EAP. Ray's involvement with offshore radio dates back to the mid 70s when he was presenting taped shows for the famous English service of Radio Atlantis (Ray Warner). Ray was also one of the keyfigures behind the return of Laser Hot Hits 576 from the MV Communicator December 1986.

The Broadcasting Vessel



The Radio London RSL started 18th. The "Old Peculiar", a former 140 tons/ 110 Ft minesweeper (the original Radio London ship MV Galaxy also was a minesweeper!) would originally become the home of the radio station. However, in the end another ship was purchased, namely the **Yeoman Rose**. Only four days were left to do all the fitting out work, converting this cargo ship into a true radio vessel. But...the job which started on Monday July 14th at Queensborough on the Isle of Sheppy in Kent was finished off in time. The forward mast was extended and a specially built lattice tower was erected near the stern enabling the engineering team to construct a T-type aerial. An AM tx with a capacity of 400W was hired but Radio London was allowed to only run at a power of a mere watt! More about the output of the station later on... The Yeoman Rose was built in 1964. She's a 500 ton coaster having almost the size and weight of Radio Caroline's Ross Revenge. Mobile homes were lifted aboard acting as the crew's quarters and transmitter room. In addition a studio was built in the mess room. The ship is decked-out in a black, blue, white and red livery. The anchor of the Yeoman Rose is not designed for long stays out at sea causing a few minor problems during the 28 day stay off the UK's south-east coast. The Yeoman Rose is about to be returning to its role of cargo ship following the end of the RSL.

The Format/ Presenters

In the early hours of Friday July 18th Radio London took off on 1134 KHz corresponding with 266 metres, the original wavelength of Big L in the 1960s. The Yeoman Rose moored a mile off Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, very close to Big L's original 1960s anchorage and clearly visible to sightseers on the seafront. Aim of EAP was to recreate the sound of Wonderful Radio London. Ray Anderson's comment: *"This is a great opportunity to bring back the sound of Big L which was loved and adored by 12 million listeners in the UK and a further 4 million on the continent."* The people involved with Radio London's RSL did their homework. They were not just playing a bunch of 60s records in a modern style like so many of the local British stations do. They recreated in meticulous detail the sixties Radio London with music which was part of Wonderful Radio London's play-list during its final weeks (Scott McKenzie, Beatles, Beach Boys, Jimi Hendrix, Monkees, Supremes etc.) in August 1967. In addition the complete set of original Big L jingles, tunes, promos, programme items and even commercials which were used more than 30 years ago. Ofcourse these sixties commercials were alternated with 1997 commercials...the RSL costed approx. 35,000 pounds and costs had to be recovered by selling adverts to local businesses together with sponsorship opportunities. Unique was the idea of approaching original advertisers with a special offer of broadcasting their original commercial of the 1960s for the same price they paid more than 30 years ago! As far as we know this offer attracted much interest with former London clients. On the merchandising site, we can reveal that original T-shirts and stickers were sold to London supporters. A Radio London shop on nearby Walton pier was selling memorabilia. Also disco nights were organised. Each day broadcasts included a 30 minute segment at 7 pm featuring off-air recordings on Radio London's 1964-1967 era featuring Tony "Hello" Windsor, Mark Roman, Kenny Everett and many more. Listening to the station brought a great feeling of nostalgia thanks to the London management- Ray Anderson & Paul Graham- and ofcourse the deejay crew who obviously spared no effort to get it right. Original 3 hour shows with news on the half-hour and weather at the top of each hour were aired by a mixture of 1960s staff and modern day presenters. Even pxs which were presented by "new" deejays who were not aboard London in the roaring 60s, were named after original stars, being produced as authentic as possible. Among the deejay crew were Mark Roman who was on Big L between 1965 and 1967, Chris Baird from BBC Radio Derby (a devotee of Radio London), Tom Collins reading out news (recreating the style of Paul Kay who died in 1980), Chris Elliott, Paul Graham and Ray Anderson. In addition many former London jocks presented guest shows: Ian Damon, Keith Skues, Duncan Johnson, Pete Brady, Tony Brandon, John Kenning, Howard Rose and Peter McFarlane also known as Kevin Turner.

Success/ Reception

No doubt Radio London has been very successful during its 4 week stay on the Northsea. Hundreds of listeners visited the ship

and reception reports not only came from the UK's south-east coastal area. Reports from much further afield were no exception: East Anglia, London, yes, even Manchester. Much of Essex and Suffolk enjoyed clear reception. On the Dutch coast Radio London could easily be picked up but also in Germany and other parts of the Netherlands 1134 AM was received during daytime. The advantage of 1134 was that no other stronger stations were using 1134 during daytime. Disadvantage was that in the evening and nightly hours reception was restricted to a small area because of the presence of a strong Yugoslavian station on 1134. Although the London management said they would be sticking to the 1 watt power limit not turning up the power, this has to be taken with a piece of salt. The fact the station could be well received in a much wider area than the nearby coastal area proves the station had considerably upped power. It seems most RSL stations in the UK never run the legal power of the license. Offshore Radio back in 1992 ran 40 watts and also Caroline used more than 1 watt during previous AM RSLs..

The London RSL attracted much media attention. It is estimated that because of the event 20,000 people from all parts of Great Britain visited the area from which Radio London operated apart from another 500 from the continent.

Radio London was running special programmes through most of the 14th, it's last day on air, re-creating the final hours of it's namesake in the 60s. At exactly 3 o'clock BST London closed down. Later that day the station was broadcasting a tribute to Radio Caroline, which stayed on the air following the MOA, and during this programme that the linkup between the two ships took place.

Salient detail: at the moment London closed down Radio Caroline was also on air with a RSL, namely on 1278 kHz.

Trips to the Yeoman Rose

Offshore and radio enthusiasts had the possibility to climb aboard the Yeoman Rose and *take a smell* at the ship finding out it smell was typically that of an offshore radio station. The trips were made with the sightseeing boat Lady Gwen leaving from Walton Pier.

FRS Sales Productions offers a wide range of Radio London tapes in excellent AM quality!

RADIO CAROLINE

August 9th Radio Caroline began it's 10th RSL service. This time the Ross Revenge was moored on the Swaye river, close to the Isle of Sheppy, promoting tourism and trade. Caroline was to be heard on 1278 AM with a power of 1 watt. That's the theory however. One can expect the actual output was amply exceeding 1 watt. Unfortunately we cannot give you much detailed info as the official Caroline Internet website only gave and perhaps gives very little information about the RSL. As far as we know there was a link-up between Caroline and Radio London in the afternoon of Thursday August 14th at 18.10 CEST. At that moment Radio London had already closed down but trms aboard the MV Yeoman Rose continued for a few extra hours (till 00.00 BST) putting out a tribute to Radio Caroline which stayed on the air in 1967 after the M.O.A. came into force.

During the first days of Caroline's RSL, the 1278 AM signal was clearly receivable at the Dutch coast, however, the signal was weaker compared with Radio London. Perhaps the different anchorages of both ships could be a possible cause. Caroline closed down Sun August 31st and during the final weekend their signal was significantly stronger compared with the previous period. The signal was easily picked up in Den Bosch (without a loop frame aerial!). Because of the tragic death of Lady Diana, Princess of Wales, Caroline was playing soft pop on the final day. The fact this RSL only lasted 23 days instead of the usual 28 is because of the start of brandnew radio station Medway FM. Caroline's AM RSL was taking place in the Medway FM service area and no RSLs are allowed when a new station opens for a period of 12 months. So because of Medway FM's opening 1st September, Caroline had to close on the 31st August..

☐ The MediaZoo/CMR commemorated 30th Anniversary of the MOA on 14 August via its satellite outlet. Just two days before the broadcast CMR announced that in addition to their pan-European coverage, via the Astra 1D satellite, selected parts of the six hour show would also be aired on terrestrial



frequencies. From Riga (Latvia) 576AM was on air relaying the CMR output between 19.00-23.00 UTC which is midnight UK time. On SW 5935kHz was audible between 21.00-23.00 UTC. Hence the first two hours were exclusive to satellite. These hours were relaying the music of Caroline and London. Reception on 576 was poor/fair but 5935 was extremely loud. By the end of the show Emails were already stacking up on the >mediazoo@cix.co.uk<. They were pouring in from all over Europe and further. Two days after the show letters started arriving and many detailed that they had tuned into both the European satellite feed of CMR and the temporary 49m band and/or 576AM services that were loaned to the MediaZoo by the LVRTC in Latvia. Eric Wiltsher, anchor of the show, said, "This is just beyond my wildest dreams. MediaZoo, and before that the Satellite Surgery, has always enjoyed a massive/loyal audience. However, the recent MOA special produced the best results we have ever known."

Wiltsher added: "Although many did listen to the 49m-band and AM service, the vast majority of our massive audience were tuned into satellite. I trust that now the cynics will accept that consumers will tune into satellite providing the programme warrants listening to."

The MediaZoo is the award winning media show aired weekly on CMR and hosted by Eric Wiltsher. Website: > <http://www.mediazoo.co.uk> <.

☐ RADIO NETHERLANDS WORLD SERVICE

On Thursday 14th of August Radio Netherlands English Service featured a M.O.A. special in Media Network, the popular weekly communications magazine. In the programme Jonathan Marks looked back on the sixties radio, together with Andy Senneth and Hans Knot. Interesting is to have a look at Radio Netherlands' Media Network page. German offshore enthusiast Martin van de Venne produced their special offshore web site which was a preview of their Media Network feature. Address of this excellent website:

<http://www.rnw.nl/en/prog/offshore/offshore.html>

MV Electra

FRSGDX readers must clearly remember the comprehensive coverage which was given to the **MV Electra project** in the USA. One of the key-figures, Scott Becker (the other one being Allan Weiner) was interviewed by Bill Bragg on the Yesterday USA network UT Monday Aug 25 at 0215. He said the Electra radioship was almost ready to sail in a couple weeks once some final parts were received. Destination is West Indies but exact country still not released pending contracts, nor frequencies. The station will have a 50 kW signal on SW. Visitors who phone in advance (no number heard) will be allowed to visit the ship, which has a fresh coat of purple paint and a 75-foot mast, after Sept. 1st. In East Boston, go down Meridian St. to Chelsea, over the MacArthur bridge, and it's visible to the left. (World of Radio-Glenn Hauser)

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

☐ August 11th we received a press release from East Kent Radio announcing the launch of two brand new radioservices. These will commence on the 20th of October 1997 and will broadcast from the prestigious Maidstone TV Studios, in the heart of Kent, the home of Flextech, operators of a number of Astra TV channels including Discovery, Challenge TV, Bravo and the Childrens Channel. The first service is EKR's new Pan-European A.O.R. Rock Station. The service, to be called *European Klassik Rock*, will broadcast from 6am until 10pm daily on the 7.38 and 7.56 stereo audio sub-carriers of Challenge TV, which utilises Channel 35 on the Astra 1C satellite. The programming will also be carried by numerous cable systems throughout the UK and the rest of Europe. EKR will also become the first new music station to broadcast on the London D.A.B. Multiplex as it's service will be relayed London wide via this facility.

Listeners in the Maidstone area will also be able to receive the first month of the new services via a 28 day RSL broadcast. The EKR team are seeking to "break the radio mould" which currently threatens to strangle British radio and aim to provide a refreshing breath of creative music radio. *European Klassik Rock* will feature a playlist of over 4000 songs, which although computer

controlled will allow for a level of individual presenter input. Managing Director Peter Leutner, who was formerly with LBC, said "We are seeking to put the music back into radio. We firmly believe that EKR's rock radio service will be appreciated by lovers of A.O.R. music who are frustrated at hearing the same 500 rock songs played over and over again by other stations". EKR's Head of Music, former Invicta FM presenter Mark Stafford, said "Although EKR's core artists will include familiar names such as Bryan Adams, Eric Clapton, Queen, Bruce Springsteen, and David Bowie our programming will feature a freshness and absence of repetition so lacking in UK radio. The cornerstone of EKR's programming philosophy is that almost 40 years of pop and rock music has produced far in excess of the so called "1,000 strong songs" which have become the staple diet of British radio in the late 90's. EKR's on-air slogan "Putting The Music Back Into Radio" will mean just that, as we will unleash dozens and dozens of great forgotten classics and new songs onto the radio. It will be a refreshing listening experience". From 10pm until 6am, EKR's frequencies are taken over by "Night Tracks" an adult contemporary service built around core artists such as, The Lightening Seeds, Sting, Crowded House and Tina Turner. Night Tracks will feature music from the mid-sixties to the present day. The service will be "un-branded" making it an ideal live night-time sustaining service for any ILR station looking for a cost effective solution to filling the night-time hours. A full IRN news service, UK and European weather and a comprehensive live UK travel news service will be key items in the programming. Night Tracks will be available free to any station wishing to take the service, however prior approval from EKR will be required. The EKR and Night Tracks line-up already consist of a number of experienced ILR presenters, including Sony Radio Award Winner Glen Thompson and Mark Zeall, formerly with Fox FM. The station is looking for a number of experienced presenters to join this team. Managing Director, Peter Leutner said "We are looking for those talented presenters who are currently frustrated by the high repetition and lack of musical creativity so prevalent in ILR today. Presenters must really care about our brand of music and be able to transfer that enthusiasm to the listeners. Rap and Dance enthusiasts need not apply!!". In particular the station is looking to fill the challenging position of Programme Controller and a number of other key shifts. Applicants should apply in writing with full CV and demo tape to EKR, The Maidstone Studios, Vinters Park, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5NQ before 1st September 1997. EKR WEB SITE : <http://www.east-kent-radio.demon.co.uk>

EKR E-mail : EKR@east-kent-radio.demon.co.uk

☐ Monday August 11th tests were heard on 1386 AM between 19:00 to 23:00 UTC. Continuous music with no station ID, was played. The tests were being radiated from an old USSR broadcast station site designed to send propaganda to the UK for the Voice of Russia till the late 1980's. The site is on the Poland-Baltic Sea border, near to the Gulf of Gdansk. It has a very large directional aerial array, the center of which is pointing at Manchester. Power output was 1.2 Mega-watts.

More tests were due to be aired between August 12th and 14th, as far as we know nothing was heard however. Txs to Andy Walker for this newsitem. Will be continued??!

☐ In the FRSN #14 we reported about the 576 kHz tests from Latvia and published comment from expert Paul Rusling. However, these interesting notes were coming from *Dave Kenny* and not from Paul Rusling (who remains an expert...!). Thanks Dave...

☐ **WORLD MUSIC RADIO** made its final transmission Sunday August 24th 1997. There is very small chance that WMR will return to the air within a few weeks or on November 1st 1997. According to SH Nielsen selling adverts for the station has proved impossible so far - and the support from DX'ers have been very close to nil. Very few T-shirts were sold in the past months. Response came from the "usual" DX'ers in Europe (incl. quite a deal from Russia, Belarus, Ukraine etc), DX'ers in Argentina (a lot), Japan (quite many), Australia and New Zealand, a couple of letters from India, some from North America and a few from a few other places. The response from Africa was disappointing, but mail has been received from "normal" / non DX'ers in most of the English speaking countries in Africa. However there was virtually no support from the DX'ers in Europe or



elsewhere. Quoting SH Nielsen: "All they are up to is the usual demand for a QSL. I had the wild idea that when religious broadcasters get an enormous income from supporters, perhaps we could have just a small income from supporters. But not so. Now if that wasn't enough - no one seems to be interested in buying adverts on on WMR. There are three factors which are the main reasons: 1) We are on the air only for two nights. 2) We have an international coverage (99.9 % of all advertising is done on a national or local basis). 3) WMR have no ratings to prove how many and who we are reaching. So if and when we return we will probably only be catering for our very dedicated listeners in Africa."

MADE IN HOLLAND

Made in Holland is back reporting in brief about the most important news/developments within the Dutch radio scene...

MARCH:

Parliament decides there will be no auction of terrestrial frequencies until an investigation on the issue of available will be published. However: the report won't be published before the end of next year. As a result the Government must try to come to an agreement on this subject with the commercial stations. If such an agreement fails, there is a chance an auction will be held soon, despite the intention to wait for the already mentioned investigation.

APRIL:

After reading an investigation on the subject of commercial activities by public "pop station" one of the members of the 'Commissariaat voor de media', the supervising body stated: "Radio 3 is a mess!".

The Government plans to make a decision on the provisional assignment before July 1st. Most major commercial stations have come to an agreement on this subject. On April 17th the Government hears all commercial station. Several parties threaten

to go to court with heavy financial claims in case they won't get a frequency.

MAY:

Public pop radio station Radio 3 gets a 200,000 Guilders fine because of the heavy promotion of a newly released CD.

Virgin Radio considers starting a station in the Netherlands.

Inhabitants of the Kootwijk village are protesting against the proposed building of four giant masts. The towers will be used by the longwave station Delta Radio.

JUNE:

The Government agrees with the proposed assignment of terrestrial FM frequencies to commercial radio stations. Clearly Hitradio Veronica gets the worst package, with the lowest coverage.

Also the Parliament gives a positive judgement about the plans.

JULY:

Cable station Kikker Radio, aiming at children, closes down as a result of financial troubles. The station has been broadcasting for some 14 months.

Hitradio Veronica considers to close down its AM outlets on 1224 and 828 on January 1st, when the station is going to use 4 FM transmitters. Rumours about parties interested to take over the AM frequencies are circulating immediately. For instance: the people behind the former Holland FM want to buy the Communicator back, to re-start the station as "Nederland AM".

AUGUST:

Three radiostations that didn't get a FM frequency claim losses to a total of 40,000,000 Guilders. Their lawyer has objected against the governmental decision. The station have also contacted the European Committee.

Radio Noordzee Nationaal reveals plans to launch a new cable station: Radio Hollands Glorie (we won't translate the name; it's too embarrassing...). The station will play Dutch language "polka music" solely. Launching date is November 1st.

FRS SALES PRODUCTIONS TAPE OFFERS LATE SUMMER

This Summer it was 30 years ago that the M.O.A. bill came into force. To commemorate this important date in the history of British pop radio, Radio London was allowed to broadcast between July 18th- August 14th via a RSL. Broadcasts on 1134 kHz came from the MV Yeoman Rose, anchored off Frinton-on-Sea. FRS Sales Productions offers a wide range of tapes in *excellent AM quality*. This is a GREAT OPPORTUNITY to obtain a fantastic collection of great radio tapes for your personal radio archive. Great, fast-moving radio in an inimitable 60s style.....It's fun, pure nostalgia.

1	Coffee Break	Ray Anderson	Tuesday July 29	09.00-09.45/ 10.00-10.45	090 min.
2	Guest Show	Ian Damon/ Ed Stewart*	Saturday August 2	14.00-14.50/ 15.00-15.50	100 min.
3	Fab 40	Ray Anderson	Sunday August 3	13.00-16.00	180 min.
4		Peter McFarlane	Wed August 6	12.00-14.00	120 min.
5	Breakfast Show	Chris Elliott	Thurs/Fri Aug 7/8	06.05-06.55/ 06.30-07.20	100 min.
6		P. McFarlane/Ray Anderson	Thurs/Fri Aug 7/8	13.50-14.50/ 10.30-11.30	120 min.
7	Roman Empire	Mark Roman	Friday August 8	15.00-17.00	120 min.
8	Breakfast Show	Chris Elliott	Saturday August 9	07.20-08.10/ 08.25-09.20	100 min.
9		Paul Graham/Chris Elliott	Sat/Sun Aug 9/10	18.00-18.45/ 08.15-09.00	090 min.
10	Guest Show	Keith Skues	Sun August 10	09.00-09.45/ 09.50-10.35	090 min.
11	Guest Show	Keith Skues	Sun August 10	10.35-11.20/ 11.20-12.05	090 min.
12	Final Fab 40	Chris Baird	Sun August 10	13.00-14.30	090 min.
13- 24	Final day	Several deejays	Thursday Aug 14	08.00-20.00	060 min. x 12

From the final day we have recordings from almost the whole day. These recordings were made only a few miles away from the Yeoman Rose! All other recordings have been made in Vlissingen using a loop frame aerial.

Prices: ☐ 90 min./100 min. DM 10.00/£ 3.25 ☐ 120 min. DM 13.50/ £ 4.25 ☐ 180min. DM 20.00/ £ 6.50 (1-12)

☐ **Super offer 1:** the complete package 1-12 (21 hours) for only DM 125,-/ £ 39.90 !!!!

☐ Each hour of the final day costs..... DM 08.50/ £ 2.80 .

☐ Two hours DM 15.00/ £ 4.85

☐ Three hours DM 22.50/ £ 7.25

☐ Four hours DM 30.00/ £ 9.75

☐ If you order *more than four hours from the last day*, each extra hour (>4) costs only DM 6.00/ £ 1.95 .

☐ For instance 7 hours= DM 30.00/ £ 9.75 + 3x DM 6.00/ £ 1.95= DM 48.00/£ 15.60 !!

☐ **Super offer 2:** The last day (12 hours) for only DM 72.50/ £ 23.50 !!

☐ **Super offer 3:** The complete package of tapes (33 hours) for the incredible price of... DM 175/ £ 57.00 !!!

Payments are accepted *in cash, by Eurocheque or by I.M.O.* No other foreign cheques please! Eurocheques must be written out in either Dutch guilders or German Marks. Do not forget your bank number and signature, otherwise we cannot exchange your cheque. You may send Dutch, English, German, Belgian, USA or French banknotes. Make sure it's the equivalent of the prices listed above. All prices include postage & packing. Address: P.O.Box 2727, 6049 ZG Herten, the Netherlands. **FRS Sales Productions, a name to remember....**